

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for coating ~~improving the adhesion of a dried aqueous coating composition to~~ a friable surface comprising forming an aqueous coating composition comprising an emulsion polymer having a glass transition temperature of -20° C to 100° C and an average particle diameter less than 120 nanometers, said emulsion polymer consisting essentially of at least one copolymerized ethylenically unsaturated nonionic monomer, each of said nonionic monomer(s) having a water solubility less than 8% by weight, and at least one copolymerized acid monomer, such that the acid number of said emulsion polymer is 30 to 100, and 0.5-10%, by weight based on said emulsion polymer weight, water-soluble alkoxylated amine;

applying said aqueous coating composition to a friable surface; and drying, or allowing to dry, said aqueous coating composition.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the acid number of said emulsion polymer is 39 to 50.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the average particle size of said emulsion polymer is less than 80 nanometers.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for coating a ~~improving the adhesion of a dried aqueous coating composition to a~~ friable surface comprising

forming an aqueous coating composition comprising an aqueous emulsion polymer having a glass transition temperature of -20° C to 100° C and an average particle diameter less than 120 nanometers, said emulsion polymer consisting essentially of 8-99.5 %, by weight based on said emulsion polymer weight, of at least one copolymerized ethylenically unsaturated first nonionic monomer, each of said first nonionic monomer(s) having a water solubility of 8% by weight or more, 0-91.5 %, by weight based on said emulsion polymer weight, of at least one copolymerized ethylenically unsaturated second nonionic monomer, each of said second nonionic monomer(s) having a water solubility of less than 8%, and at least one copolymerized acid monomer, such that the acid number of said emulsion polymer is 4 to 100; and 0.5-10%, by weight based on said emulsion polymer weight, water-soluble alkoxylated amine,

applying said aqueous coating composition to a friable surface; and drying, or allowing to dry, said aqueous coating composition.